done to them in the past and to enable them to come rapidly in line with the more advanced classes, special and earnest efforts should be made by us as well as the Government. It is reported that a society called the Depressed Classes Development Society has been formed but this is only to put dust in the eyes of the people. We are kept in blissful ignorance of what the Society has till now done for the elevation of the depressed classes. It is the duty of the Government to take adequate measures by appointing, if necessary, a special officer, as is done in the Madras Presidency and Travancore, to protect the interests of the depressed classes and also to open to them all public roads, thorough-fares, wells and instiutions.

Excise.—

From the Financial Statement submitted yesterday, it becomes clear that the Excise policy of the Government is to secure a maximum revenue from a minimum consumption. This policy is questionable, especially as we find that consumption has not decreased in proportion to the increase of revenue. We must respectfully express our deep disappointment that our Government has not yet taken definite and bold steps towards the goal of Prohibition. The steps taken, if any, are unsatisfactory and disappointing. The present policy, therefore, is, I may be permitted to say, untenable, unjustifiable and also condemnable. The public cannot value verbal expressions of sympathy for reducing consumption, unless followed by deliberate and consistent action on proper lines. The total Excise revenue for 1101 is budgetted to be Rs. 11,45,000. This is most deplorable. We have, however, to take note of one fact, namely, that it is an unsound policy to depend upon the Excise revenue. What Sir A. R. Banerji, the talented Diwan of Mysore, says in his opening speech at the Birthday Session of the Mysore Assembly 1925 should apply, before long, to our State also. He says "Experience shows that the Excise revenue is steadily coming down." Enlightened Rulers have begun to realise this fact and also that the menace of liquor traffic must be faced and overcome, if the highest interests of their people are to be safeguarded. Her Highness the Begum of Bhopal has decreed the total prohibition of the liquor traffic within

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her dominions. Bhavanager State has also fallen in line. The Bombay Government has accepted to introduce Prohibition within 20 years. The sister State of Travancore is not lagging behind. The Diwan of Travancore, in his address to the Assembly this year, says that the Government has accepted the suggestion that a reduction of 5 per cent in the number of both abkari and toddy shops should be reduced and has done so at the beginning of the currect official year. Note what he further says : "It is also worthy of note that the consumption of country liquor in the country has been reduced by nearly 52 per cent during the last four years." The policy of our State should also be to introduce Prohibition within the shortest possible time.

Jails.—

Reformation is one of the main objects of punishment. In an answer given yesterday, it is stated that no definite arrangements have been made for imparting moral instruction to the inmates of jails. This is quite unsatisfactory and disappointing.

Sanitation.—

The amount budgetted for 1101 for General Sanitation Works is only Rs. 19,000, whereas the amount for 1100 was Rs. 55,350. I wonder why the amount for General Sanitation, which is a very important subject, was so much reduced. The drastic retrenchment made with regard to this item is very regrettable. The Government should see its way to increase this amount. More money than what is allotted now is, everywhere, undoubtedly required. To give one instanc—for carrying on the immediate improvements required with regard to Kunnamkulam Town Improvement, more than what is budgetted is required.

Mr. M. K. RAMAN (*Ezhuva South*).

Mr. President—Sir, After the learned discourse of several of the hon'ble members on the subject of the coming year's budget, I am glad to submit that I have only very few remarks to make. Sir, even at the inception of this Legislative Council, when its members are thoroughly unacquainted with the business to be transacted in such an institution, a budget is presented to them with a deficit of a lakh and thirty thousand rupees. I think the members have every reason to congratulate themselves that they have an

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